(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Sarkari Aspatalon Mein Marijon Se Paise Vasoolne Ka Prastav" which appeared in the Navbharat Times, dated 5th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether charging of money from poor patients in place of providing free medical services in Government hospitals is not against the concept of a Welfare State; and

(d) what effective steps Government have, so far, taken with regard to providing free medical services to about 36 crore poor people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The new National Health Policy is under formulation. Various alternatives including recovery of user charges from those who have the capacity to pay are under consideration to augment the much needed resources for providing better health care services to the poor.

Maltreatment by Nursing Home

825. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "They threw a pregnant woman out to die, Nursing Home wanted Rs.11,000 before surgery to reomve dead foetus", which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 6th May, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether licence of this Nursing Home has been cancelled in view of the seriousness of the case; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Delhi Police has informed that on 4th May, 2001. Shri Shyam Singh resident of village Rajapur, Sector-9 Rohini made a complaint in Police Station Adarash Nagar that on the night of 3rd May, 2001, he brought his pregnant wife Smt. Bijendari Devi to Adarsh Nursing Home, Sarai Pipalthala, Adarsh Nagar for check-up. He deposited Rs.1000/- in advance and Smt. Bijendari Devi was admitted in the Nursing Home by Dr. Ruchi Gupta. The Nursing Home carried out some test and said that she is carrying a still child in the womb and she needed an immediate surgery to remove the foetus before it became poisonous. The Nursing Home authorities told him to deposit Rs. 15,000/- in advance and only then the surgery will be done. Shri Shyam Singh deposited Rs. 3,000/- and promised that the balance will be deposited in the morning and requested Dr. Ruchi Gupta to start surgery. As the complainant could not deposit the demanded money in advance, the hospital authorities did not carry out any surgery. Hence she died in the Nursing Home.

(c) and (d) the Delhi Police has informed that during investigation, Adarash Nursing Home was found unregistered. Dr. Ruchi Gupta and Shri Pawan Kumar, the owner of Adarsh Nursing Home are absconding to avoid their arrest. Their anticipatory bail applications have been rejected and Non-Bailable Warrant has been procured by Delhi Police against them from the Court on 18.7.2001. On the complaint of Shri Shyam Singh, Delhi Police registered a case FIR No.184 dated 4th May, 2001 under section 304/34 IPC in Adarsh Nagar Police Station.

Assistance from World Bank for Rural Hospitals in J&K

826. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought any assistance from World Bank for the development of rural hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, where during militancy almost whole of the infrastructure has been destroyed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?